Message

From: Overbey, Dian [Overbey.Dian@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/11/2020 7:36:35 PM
To: Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]
CC: Overstreet, Anne [overstreet.anne@epa.gov]; McNally, Robert [Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov]; Bohnenblust, Eric [Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry re: Oxitec permit to release GM mosquitoes

Thanks Mike. Sending it forth.

Dian

From: Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Overbey, Dian <Overbey.Dian@epa.gov>
Cc: Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>; McNally, Robert <Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov>; Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Press Inquiry re: Oxitec permit to release GM mosquitoes

Dian,

Anne gave the approval to send forward. See below. Thanks!

Mike Mendelsohn, Chief
Emerging Technologies Branch
Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P)
Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20460
(703) 308-8715
(703) 463-7302 Mobile

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Overstreet, Anne" <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>
> **Date:** May 11, 2020 at 3:10:34 PM EDT
> **To:** "Mendelsohn, Mike" <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>, "McNally, Robert" <Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov>
> **Subject: RE: Press Inquiry re: Oxitec permit to release GM mosquitoes**
>
> Fine to move forward – while a bit more technical than press generally likes, the question warrants the response I think.
> Thanks,
> Anne
>
> ---
>
> Anne Overstreet, Deputy Director
> Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division
> Office of Pesticide Programs (7511P)
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> (703) 308-8068

Overstreet.anne@epa.gov
http://www.epa.gov/pesticides

From: Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:04 PM
To: McNally, Robert <Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov>; Overstreet, Anne <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>
Subject: Press Inquiry re: Oxitec permit to release GM mosquitoes

ETB is fine with the response below and attached. Please advise if OK for FEAD to move forward. Thanks!

Mike

- Why do the releases not occur within 500 meters of sewage treatment facilities and any farm producing citrus crops?

The restriction to not release within 500 meters of sewage treatment facilities and farms producing citrus crops is to ensure female OX5034 *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes do not encounter levels of tetracycline in the environment that will result in survival of adult OX5034 female mosquitoes. Female OX5034 *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes can survive when exposed to a high enough dose of tetracycline. A compilation of release recapture studies around the world found that most *Ae. aegypti* are recovered within 20 m to 50 m of the release point, with a small percentage found 170 m but generally not more than 200 m from the release point. Therefore, a restriction of 500 m from potential sources (200 m for released OX5034 males + 200 m for mated *Ae. aegypti* females + 100 m of additional buffer) provides a conservative buffer zone to prevent OX5034 mosquitoes from encountering tetracycline in the environment. Additional detailed discussion can be found in EPA's Response to Comments in Part VI.B. in the response to comment document (document ID: EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0355) in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274.

- How are you controlling the effectiveness of the Oxitec technology?

The purpose of the Experimental Use Permit is for Oxitec to determine the efficacy of the OX5034 *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes for controlling populations of wild *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes. EPA reviewed the proposed protocol to determine efficacy thus ensuring the methods used to evaluate efficacy are appropriate and scientifically valid. EPA would evaluate the data generated under this EUP in a future application to support a product registration under Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Why does EPA decide to restrict the release (20 000 mosquitoe / week / acre) ?

Oxitec proposed 20,000 adult male mosquitoes/week/acre as the maximum application rate. EPA's evaluation of the application was based on Oxitec's proposed maximum application rate which is why the maximum application rate is 20,000 adult male mosquitoes/week/acre.